

**Setting up of Consulates in Bangalore**

2708. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken up with the United States and the United Kingdom Governments the need to set up Consulates in Bangalore in view of ever increasing demand for visas; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The decision to set up a Consulate is taken by the country concerned taking into accounts its requirements and priorities. There are no proposals from the governments of the United States or the United Kingdom to open their consulates in Bangalore.

**India's Presence in OIC in Malaysia**

2709. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India attended the meet of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) held in last week of June, 2000 in Malaysia;
- (b) whether any protests made against the Pakistan scripted resolution for international mediation for the people of Kashmir; and
- (c) the steps proposed to brief all Islamic nationals regarding Kashmir problem created by Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) The Government of India, in a press release dated 6th July, 2000, outrightly rejected the resolution. It reiterated that such resolutions and pronouncements of the OIC on matters that are entirely within the domestic jurisdiction of India are totally unacceptable; and that OIC has no locus standi whatsoever on the